

## Local Domestic Workers and Migrant Domestic Workers in Hong Kong

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Domestic workers in Hong Kong can be divided into two main groups: local Chinese domestic workers and non-Chinese migrant domestic workers. The situations of the two groups are distinctively different. Local domestic workers are mostly live-out workers, while migrant domestic workers are obliged to live with their employers. Local domestic workers are Hong Kong citizens and many of them started their career through the re-training program of the government. In the contrast, migrant domestic workers are strictly excluded from the citizenship in Hong Kong – their right of abode is denied despite the fact that the status should be allowed after having “ordinarily resided” in Hong Kong for seven continuous years. Migrant domestic workers have asserted that this situation violates Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. This appeal has provoked controversy in Hong Kong society which eventually led to the rejection by the Supreme Court in 2013.

However, both local workers and migrant workers are directly hired by the middle and upper class households in Hong Kong and thus play an important role in sustaining labor reproduction within society. While migrant workers form different unions based on the country of origin or political groups, they also share interests with local domestic workers and workers from other countries. This paper will discuss how the domestic workers in Hong Kong have been working in solidarity despite the political fissures over citizenship status.